

# Evening Telegraph

A DAILY AFTERNOON NEWSPAPER.

OFFICE NO. 108 S. THIRD STREET.

FIVE CENTS PER COPY. TO SUBSCRIBERS ONE DOLLAR  
WEEKLY, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. ONE DOLLAR  
TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE.ADVERTISEMENTS INSERTED AT THE SATURDAYS, A DOLLAR  
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## To Correspondents.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications, by the name and address of the writer, or of correspondence submitted; but as a character for his great tact, we extend our thanks to all our anonymous correspondents.

## To Advertisers.

Owing to the great interest in "The Declaration of the Evening Telegraph," compelling us to do our best at early hours, we reluctantly find that advertisements may not be inserted in time to be of much value, or to secure them in all of our editions.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1864.

## THE PROFESSIONAL POLITICIAN.

General Dix, of New York, has recently written a letter, in which he attributes the decline of our country in political prosperity and virtue chiefly to the habit we have fallen into of selecting candidates for the Presidency for the sake of their "availability"—or, other words, their supposed fitness to make a good run for the office. This is true.

But this is not the only defect or vice in our politics, in our modes and methods of nominating and electing men to every respectable station, from the least to the greatest. Another is, the recognition and support among us of a class of men who make politics a trade, and live on public patronage.

Out of one office into another, so they go, year after year, the same individuals ever turning up when official position is to be attained, or there is a prospect of fattening at the public crib. They have no especial fitness for political place. They have no marked force of character, intellect, or practical talent for business. You may even wonder at their prominent position in the party to which they belong. But they are what they are, because they make partisan machinery and strategize their daily thought and mighty dream; and, because, most potent reason of all, really respectable citizens stand aloof and allow the wire-pullers to have a clear field to themselves.

If there is any member of society who is peculiarly disqualified for official responsibility, it is the man who makes the search for place the continued business of his life. His aim is emolument; and as a general thing, as long as he can satisfy his party friends, he will not be too nice in his choice of the means of gratifying his avocation. Some of this class have no scruples in acknowledging that if they can get into a profitable berth, and live in their pockets well, they will care little for what the world may say of a defect in their accounts.

And yet so low has political morality fallen among us, that men known to be of this stamp are chosen to office without difficulty, while individuals of tried integrity and genuine ability are thrust aside. These professional politicians are the creatures of our party systems. We extend national organizations into the smallest of our municipal elections, and lose sight of the merit of the nominees in our blind adherence to a party formed for purposes affecting only the general policy of the States. To cut loose from such corrupt and imbecile domination, we must consent to separate national and municipal affairs, and give more attention to the personal qualifications of candidates.

The Union party, however, have commenced a hopeful and salutary reform in this matter. The nominations made by them recently are, in the main, of very much more meritorious character than party nominations have usually been for several years past. Their late municipal ticket in this city, headed by a citizen of such irreproachable reputation and sterling virtue as Mr. HENRY C. HOWELL, who was elected Sheriff of this county, was quite unexceptionable; while the Union candidates for the Legislature and for Congress were men well qualified for the offices for which they were named, and worthy of popular support. In a word, the Unionists have initiated a gratifying improvement in this matter of nominating candidates for public stations, and it is to be hoped that the people will sustain and encourage them hereafter in the good work.

THE HABIT OF MAKING MERCHANTS.—The habit of employing so many boys in the commercial walks of life, without remuneration, is a great and growing evil. In its practical operation it is anti-republican, confusing, as it does, certain positions to the sons of the comparatively rich. The poor boy, however ambitious and talented, is denied access to them, because he has neither affluent relations nor friends to support him during his minority. Those who practise this system may offer as a reason for it the superabundant supply of service which may be had free of cost. The system, however, is radically wrong and mischievous, and should be abandoned.

There are duties which mankind owe to the rising generation, and which should be duly considered and exercised with some reference to their welfare. The capacity of a boy for the place he is to occupy should be attentively regarded, a fair field for the exercise of that capacity should be afforded, and the due improvement and progress of the employed, in and relative to the particular business in which he may be engaged, should be facilitated. These conditions of a sound policy, in their effects upon the employer and the youth taken into service, are impracticable where a dozen boys are crowded into a mercantile establishment, the duties of which could be better performed by half the number under a thorough regime of commercial training, and stimulated by a reasonable compensation.

The boys themselves are opposed to the charily slavish position they occupy. It is fitted to lessen their self-respect, depress their energies, and induce other feelings than those they should entertain towards their employer and his interests. The present practice is not that which placed the existing heads of the commercial community in their comparatively prominent position. A majority of them commenced life with no facilities for working for nothing; but, on the contrary, they expected to work and to be paid for it. In the initiatory duties of these callings they were consequently energetic, faithful, and industrious, and after due probation they were promoted according to a just order of advancement.

They not only handled the goods, but were taught their names, quality, and value; were frequently passed into the service of the counting-room, where they became familiar with accounts, mercantile forms and practice—no moment of time being wasted; and their expanding ambition to effect a sale was stimulated by that kind of encouragement that

inspired them not only with many confidence, but a feeling of gratitude, which manifested itself in respect for their employers and a regard at all times for their interests.

Notwithstanding this allusion to the past, there is as good material now as ever existed, and all it requires is the same kind of training and development to raise up an intelligent and vigorous race of merchants. But that material finds but slight receptives, under existing circumstances, to professional prominence, burdened as it is with the competition of numbers, and hence divided duties, and little or no pay—so that the field for the exercise of either energy or a laudable ambition is as sterile, in a business point of view, as is the Desert of Sahara in a physical one.

Who that has ever passed through the routine of a sound commercial education, and contrasted it with that which now prevails, does not see that the present system of making merchants is radically defective. In fact, the deficiency is so palpable—and we think we have pointed out the true cause—that the boy, having served out his apprenticeship, such as it was, is mildly told by his employers—the time having arrived when remuneration is expected by him—that they have no further use for his services. Why? Because he has not, for want of an opportunity, perfected himself in the business in which he has been engaged, and hence is incapable of rendering services of pecuniary value to his employers.

There are cases where the employer, soon after admitting a boy into his service, sees that he is unpromising, and clearly anticipates the result. But he continues to retain him notwithstanding, often upon sufferance, as he costs nothing, because the parent, who has properly considered or definite views relative to the boy's future, wishes to have him, even without pay, in some respectable occupation. A boy thus situated, comprehending his comparative independence, makes no exertion to advance or improve himself—it is even practicable under the lax system of discipline to which he is subjected—since improvement and advancement are, with him, of secondary consideration, as compared with his ease and pleasure.

Who is responsible for this? The employers, who only possess the power to apply the proper remedy, or who can, by persisting in keeping boys upon sufferance, because they are cheap, thrust out upon the world unproficient merchants, to mar their fortunes and disgrace their vocation. The only true course is to select the right kind of boys, and systematically train, teach, work, and pay them. We would then not only witness less extravagance and fewer failures, but an order of men thoroughly prepared, by practical knowledge, example, and culture, not only to lessen the effeminacy and false pride that threaten, with the increase of wealth, luxury, and indolence, to stamp their impress upon our social and national character, but help to save us from becoming the prey to that degeneration which has, in times past, marked the decay and fall of nations once apparently so powerful, prosperous, and promising as our own.

RESULTS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Corrected Majorities as far as Received.

GOVERNOR.

COUNTRIES.

COUNTS.

WISCONSIN.

IOWA.

MINNESOTA.

MISSOURI.

NEBRASKA.

NEVADA.

NEW MEXICO.

NEW YORK.

NORTH DAKOTA.

PENNSYLVANIA.

RHODE ISLAND.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

VERMONT.

WISCONSIN.

WYOMING.

TOTAL.

VOTES.

TOTAL.

VOTES.